



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

June 24, 2013

Governor Walker  
Room 115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

We are writing to ask you to veto budget language added by the Joint Finance Committee that prohibits the UW System Board of Regents from allowing the Center for Investigative Journalism to occupy any facilities owned or leased by the regents, and UW employees from working with the center as part of their UW employment.

In 2009, the School of Journalism & Mass Communication at UW-Madison set up a partnership with the small, nonprofit and nonpartisan Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism (WCIJ). Under a facilities use agreement, the WCIJ received space in two small offices in Vilas Communication Hall for its professional employees and UW-Madison students in exchange for paid internships, classroom collaborations, guest lectures and other educational services.

The center receives no student tuition or direct state funds and its \$400,000 budget is supported by private foundations, individuals and news organizations. It spends about \$40,000 each year on salaries for student interns plus more for their travel and research. Additionally, there will be six full-time interns this summer that are paid \$10 an hour.

The center's work is published by more than 230 news outlets across Wisconsin and the nation. It has gained national acclaim as a model for public-interest journalism and brought increased status and visibility in terms of donations, research grants and foundation attention to the campus. It has been a great deal for both UW students and Wisconsin taxpayers, which is clear from the widespread opposition to the budget item inserted by the Joint Finance Committee.

Please veto these two lines in the budget and preserve this valuable asset to our state. Not only is investigative reporting important for a healthy democracy, the way this partnership is set up helps to provide essential training and potential employment for journalism students. This is a great collaboration that has been very successful and we hope you agree to allow it to continue to serve students, media outlets, citizens and our democracy.

Thank you,

Representative Peter Barca

Representative Amy Sue Vruwink

Representative Terese Berceau	Representative Evan Goyke
Representative Penny Bernard Schaber	Representative Jill Billings
Representative Fred Clark	Representative Chris Danou
Representative Steve Doyle	Representative Gary Hebl
Representative Gordon Hintz	Representative LaTonya Johnson
Representative Andy Jorgensen	Representative Robb Kahl
Representative Frederick Kessler	Representative Debra Kolste
Representative Cory Mason	Representative Nick Milroy
Representative Sandy Pasch	Representative Sindy Pope
Representative Jon Richards	Representative Janis Ringhand
Representative Melissa Sargent	Representative Katrina Shankland
Representative Chris Taylor	Representative Dana Wachs
Representative Mandy Wright	Representative JoCasta Zamarripa
Representative Josh Zepnick	Representative Chris Sinicki
Representative Eric Genrich	Representative Tod Ohnstad